

Comments for ET 03-65 and MM 00-39

My comments are in favor of the Interference Immunity Performance Specifications of Radio Receivers. As an owner and manager of a AM and FM radio stations, I am regularly perplexed by lower and lower capabilities of AM receivers. We are a farm radio station and regularly get comments like; "I used to get you, but I traded pickups and can't get you any longer." Or "I listen to you when I am in the tractor or combine, but I can't get you in my truck." Or "I listen in my pickup but we can't get you in my wife's car", Or "We have this old radio in the barn, when it quits, I don't know what we are going to do." Or "What ever happened to all the AM stations, we used to listen to them from all over. Now we just get a few."

The situation gets more and more frustrating because the there doesn't appear to be a pattern in the vehicles with good reception. We drove a 1996 Ford F-350 into a Chevy dealers lot with reception as clear as a bell. Traded for a 2001 Suburban and we could hardly hear it. We complained but the shop said there wasn't anything they could do about it. Our best reception of station vehicles is a 1999 Ford Contour, but our 2000 Expedition is terrible. I know the manufacturers can make good radios because the radios in tractors and combines are very good, but they won't fit into the dashes of cars and trucks. The farm machinery dealers know if they put a poor radio into a tractor or combine, the farmers will complain a great deal.

I believe the manufacturer of radios and automobiles are actually disincented to put good quality radios in their products. They are the investors in satellite radio. As people become more disenchanted with "free over the air" radio, the more likely they are to subscribe to the satellite radio systems which they own. I realize that the problem is by far the greatest with AM but with the disincentive, how long will it be before FM is affected.

After 3 years we found a AM/FM Radio manufactured by GE that got good AM reception. We sell them to our listeners at our cost.(\$59). In the last year, we have sold over 120 radios. The consumer is frustrated. Your initiative on this project will have a great impact on the American consumer. Because their receivers have gotten poorer over time, I don't think the average consumer realizes how good it could be if they had a good radio. If you follow through with this initiative, you will be doing a big service to the industry and the American people.

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